

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the indication that the drawings are acceptable, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 8-10, 13-18, 20 and 24-48 contain allowable subject matter, on page 5 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-5, 8, 11, 12 and 14 will have been canceled; claims 6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 20, 24, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, 40, 43 and 45 will have been amended; and claims 49-70 will have been newly presented. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 15-70 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all of claims the claims in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

On pages 4 and 5 of the Official Action, claims 1-7, 11, 12, 19 and 21-23 were provisionally rejected under obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of U.S. Application No. 10/695,904. Although not acquiescing in the propriety of such rejection, Applicant notes that claims 1-5, 11 and 12 have been canceled, and that claim 6 (from which claims 7, 19 and 21-23 depend) has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claim 8 (which was not subject to the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the provisional rejection under obviousness-type double patenting.

On page 2 of the Official Action, claims 30-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant notes that claim 30 has been amended to change “evaporators” to --heat exchangers--, and submits that the claims are now clear and definite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by MAEDA (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,394).

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been canceled, and that claim 6 (from which claims 7 and 12 depend) has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claim 8 (which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the claims.

On pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action, claims 2-5, 11, 19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicant notes that claims 2-5 and 11 have been canceled, and that claims 19 and 21-23 depend from claim 6 (which has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of previous claim 8, as noted above). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the claims.

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Applicants further submit that newly presented claims 49-70 are also allowable, and respectfully request such an indication. In this regard, Applicants note that each of the newly presented independent claims 49, 51, 55 and 62 include features which were contained in previous claims which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

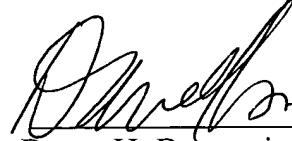
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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